

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-05 EB-08 /098 W

-----109080 060403Z /17

R 060300Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SUVA 01057

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI'S PRIME MINISTER TAKES INITIATIVE IN GENERAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: SUVA 1054

1. THE PM, RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA, HAS REACTED TO REPEATED ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, SIDKDIQ KOYA, THAT MARA DEFIED DEMOCRACY BY ACCEPTING THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S REQUEST TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT AFTER THE APRIL ELECTIONS.

2. IN A SOMEWHAT STARTLING SEPTEMBER 5 INTERVIEW WITH FIJI TIMES CHIEF REPORTER, THE PM STATED HE HAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HIS ALLIANCE PARTY WILL BE BACK IN POWER AS A MAJORITY. HOWEVER, HE STATED:

A. HE WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TKO STEP DOWN AS PM AND AS
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ALLIANCE LEADER IF THE OPPOSITION LEADER OF THE NFP, MR. KOYA, KEEPS HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AND REMAINS AS LEADER OF NFP.

B. THE PM INDICATED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH THE NARAYNA-REMARAKHA FACTION OF THE NFP AND BELIEVES FIRM STABLE GOVERNMENT TO BE THE MAIN ISSUE OF THE CAMPAIGN AS OPPOSED TO

RACIAL AGITATION IN AMULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY. "I HAVE ALWAYS
ADVOCATED COALITION GOVERNMENT AS THE RIGHT FORM OF GOVERNMENT
FOR A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY. UNFORTUNATELY SUCH COALITIONS MUST
BE EFFECTED BY PEOPLE OF LIKE MINDS ADHERING TO LIKE PRINCIPLES.
MR. KOYA AND MYSELF ARE NOT PEOPLE OF LIKE MINDS AND HAVE
DIFFERENT PRINCIPLES." (THE CONSTITUTION OF FIJI REQUIRES
THAT THE PRIMEMIN AND LEADER OF OPPOSITION CONFER ON CERTAIN
MATTERS.)

3. A WEEKEND SPEECH BY THE PM STRESSED THAT INTEGRATION
ITSELF HAS NEVER BEEN THE ANSWER TO THE RACIAL DIVISIONS
IN FIJI. HE CHALLENGED THE NFP TO NAME ONE COUNTRY IN WHICH
INDIANS HAVE INTEGRATED WITH OTHER RACES. AS THE ALLIANCE'S
LEADER SINCE 1965, HE COULD SAY THAT "IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR
IT (THE PARTY) TO HAVE SCRAPPED RACIAL DIVISIONS IT WOULD HAVE
DONE SO . . BUT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH IN FIJI FROM THEN
UNTIL TODAY THAT IT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO GET TO THE GRASS ROOTS
UNLESS YOU HAVE THE PEOPLE WITH ASPIRATIONS VOICING THEIR OWN
VIEWS IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE IN THE BACKGROUND OF THEIR OWN
CULTURE."
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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